

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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R 041735Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2522
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMCONSUL TURIN POUCH
AMCONSUL TRIESTE POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 8185

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT
SUBJECT: CISL VISIT TO THE US

REF: ROME 7868

1. SUMMARY. SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH CISL DELEGATIONS MEMBERS MARINI AND GABAGLIO CONFIRMS THAT THE PARTICIPANTS WERE VERY PLEASED AND SATISFIED WITH THEIR VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. WHILE BOTH MEN NOTE THAT THERE WERE AREAS OF DIVERGENCY BETWEEN THE AFL-CIO AND CISL, THE CONVERSATIONS WITH THEIR AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS WERE AMICABLE. MORE IMPORTANT FOR CISL THAN THE CONTENT OF THE CONVERSATIONS, EVIDENTLY, WAS THE FACT THAT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THETWO ORGANIZATIONS WAS REOPENED AFTER A NUMBER OF YEARS OF MINIMAL CONTACT. THEY ALSO APPRECIATED THE HIGH GOVERNMENTAL CONTACTS WHICH HAD BEEN ARRANGED FOR THEM. END SUMMARY.

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2. FRANCO MARINI, CISL NATIONAL SECRETARY AND LEADING "MINORITY" FIGURE IN THE ORGANIZATION, TELLS US THAT THE TRIP WENT VERY WELL. HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY THE AMOUNT OF TIME THAT AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY SPENT WITH THE DELEGATION, AND BY THE MANY GENEROUS ACTS OF HOSPITALITY THEY EXPERIENCED. MARINI SAID HE WAS STRUCK BY THE RELATIVELY RELAXED ATTITUDE

MEANY EXHIBITED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUE OF ITALIAN LABOR UNITY. INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEAD ERNEST LEE WAS "MUCH MORE SINGLE-MINDED" ON THE MATTER OF COOPERATION WITH THE COMMUNISTS, HE SAID. "OVER THE LONG TERM HE'S RIGHT, TOO, MARINI ADDED, BUT IN THE MEANTIME MARINI SAID HE FINDS HIMSELF IN FREQUENT AGREEMENT WITH THE EMINENTLY SENSIBLE PROPOSALS WHICH THE CGIL HAS PROPOSED AND ENDORSED IN RECENT TIMES.

3. GABAGLIO WAS SIMILARLY PLEASED AT THE TRIP, AND IMPRESSED WITH AFL-CIO OPENNESS (SINGLING OUT DONAHUE AND BOGGS FOR PRAISE IN THIS REGARD,) AND MEANY'S PERSONAL HOSPITALITY. ASKED WHETHER HE HAD DISCUSSED CHILE WITH BOGGS, HE SAID "YES, AND SURPRISINGLY, BOGGS AND I WERE IN SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT". (GABAGLIO WAS TO DEPART FOR CHILE THE DAY OF OUR CONVERSATION WITH HIM, AS PART OF A CCU DELEGATION. GABAGLIO WAS ALSO PLEASED WITH THE GROWING HARMONY WITHIN CISL, EXEMPLIFIED, HE SAID, BY THE PALPABLE HARMONY WITHIN THE DELEGATION. INDEED, HE ASSERTED, MARINI WAS THE MOST ZEALOUS GUARDIAN OF CISL INDEPENDENCE AGAINST ANY HINT OF INTERVENTION IN ITALIAN AFFAIRS, ALTHOUGH AFL-CIO ATTITUDES GAVE NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN IN THIS REGARD.

4. MARINI, TOO, INDICATED THAT THE FACTIONS WITHIN CISL ARE CLOSER NOW THAN FOR SOMETIME, BUT HE IS CONCERNED
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ABOUT THE INORDINATE INFLUENCE OF EXTRAPARLIAMENTARY ELEMENTS IN SOME PARTS OF THE ORGANIZATION, PARTICULARLY IN LOMBARDY. MARINI SAID HE IS STILL UPSET WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP FOR NOT HAVING ASSISTED THE CISL MINORITY DURING THE DELEGATE SELECTION PROCESS LEADING TO THE CISL CONVENTION LAST JUNE. HE ASCRIBED THIS TO A LACK OF COURAGE ON THE PART OF DC LEADERS, CITING AS AN EXAMPLE THE FACT THAT DC DEPUTY PARTY SECRETARY GALLONI ASKED HIM TO GO EASY ON THE MACARIO LEADER- IN HIS SPEECH TO THE CONVENTION. MARINI NOTED THAT HE IGNORED THE ADVICE, AND GOT ONE OF THE BIGGEST RESPONSES, SECONDS ONLY TO DC SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI. MARINI IS CONVINCED THAT, WITH OPEN DC BACKING, HE AND THE "MINORITY" SLATE WOULD HAVE CARRIED THE CONVENTION.

5. BOTH MARINI AND GABAGLIO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE PROSPECT OF A RECIPROCAL VISIT TO ITALY WHICH THE AFL-CIO LEADERSHIP HAS PROMISED IN "THE NEAR FUTURE".

6. COMMENT. THE CISL LEADERS ARE DOUBTLESS RIGHT IN REGARDING THE RESUMPTION OF A DIALOGUE WITH THE AFL-CIO AS THE PRIME BENEFIT GARNERED FROM THE TRIP.

THIS IS ALL THE MORE TRUE INASMUCH AS THAT WAS THE
PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE TRIP ALL ALONG. WHILE SUCH AN
INITIAL VISIT CANNOT REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO RESULT
IN CISL'S TOTAL CONVERSION TO THE AFL-CIO WORLD OUTLOOK,
IT HAS ALREADY RESULTED IN SHARPENING CISL'S SENSE OF
IDENTITY, AND THUS OF INDEPENDENCE FROM DOMINATION BY
THE CGIL. THIS IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT MACARIO
AND OTHERSHAVE DEFIED THE CARPING OF THE LEFT PRESS,
WHICH HAS DESCRIBED AS "ODD" CISL'S BROADENING OF TIES
WITH THEAFL-CI AT JUST THE MOMENT WHEN THE CGIL WAS
TURNING AWAY FROM THE WFTU, BY MAKING PUBLIC STATEMENTS
REFERRING TO THE BENEFITS DRIVED FROM THE TIP, INCLUDING
THE POSITIVE IMPRESSSIONS THEY FORMED.GARDNER

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